

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EUR-12 AID-05 DHA-02 ORM-02
IGA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SSO-00
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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4458

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, TH, VS, LA, CB

SUBJECT: PLANNED ORGANIZATION OF REFUGEE OPERATIONS FOR NEW
PAROLE PROGRAM

REF: BANGKOK 13346

1. WE WILL BE BRIEFING DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER ON THE
REFUGEE SITUATION IN THAILAND, THE GENERALLY POSITIVE ATTITUDE
OF THE RTG ON THIS ISSUE, AND OUR THOUGHTS ON PERMANENT
RESETTLEMENT.

2. PURPOSE OF THIS MESSAGE IS TO INDICATE OUR THINKING ABOUT
THE MANNER AND RESOURCES REQUIRED TO ACCOMPLISH THE SCREENING
OF THE 80,000 REFUGEES IN THAILAND AND THE SELECTION AND
MOVEMENT OF OUR SHARE OF THE PAROLE PROGRAM.

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3. WE BELIEVE THE FIRST PRIORITY OF REFUGEES TO BE SELECTED
AND MOVED WILL BE THE VIETNAMESE BOAT CASES.

4. CONCURRENTLY WITH THE BOAT POPULATION OPERATIONS WE
PLAN TO ORGANIZE THE WORK TO FIRST SCREEN AND THEN SELECT
THE 8,000 SPACES ALLOCATED FROM AMONG THE GREAT BULK OF THE

REFUGEES IN THAILAND LOCATED IN UP-COUNTRY CAMPS.

5. TO REVIEW THE BIDDING ON THE ORDER OF MAGNITUDE OF THE REFUGEE POPULATION, THERE ARE CAMP IN THE FOLLOWING PROVINCES IN THAILAND.

PROVINCE	NO. OF CAMPS	TOTAL REFUGEES
CHIANG RAI	2	
NAN	2	
UTTRADIT	1	LAO-MNONG
	5	30,000

NANGKAI	1	
LOEI	1	
UBON	1	LAO-MNONG
	3	38,000

SURIN	1	
PRACHINBURI	1	
CHANTABURI	1	
TRAT	1	KHMER
	4	13,000

SIKHIU(NAKHON RATCHASIMA) 1
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SONGKHLA(BOAT REFUGEES)	1	
LAEM SING(BOAT REFUGEES)	1	VIETNAMESE
	3	3,500

6. WHILE SELECTION AND MOVEMENT OF THE UP-COUNTRY PAROLEES WILL HAVE SECOND PRIORITY, WE BELIEVE WE CAN SELECT AND MOVE OUR SHARE OF THE 7,000 BOAT CASES IN THE REGION BEFORE THE END OF 1977 AND SCREEN AND SELECT THE 8,000 UP-COUNTRY CASES.

7. WE ARE ASSUMING THAT THE DEPARTMENT WILL AGREE TO A TEMPORARY INCREASE IN THE REFUGEE UNIT WITHIN THE CONSULAR SECTION TO HANDLE THE PROPOSED PAROLE PROGRAM. WE HAVE, OF COURSE, HAD VERY CONSIDERABLE EXPERIENCE WITH BOTH PAROLE AND CONDITIONAL ENTRY UNDER EARLIER PROGRAMS. WE ARE CONFIDENT THE NEW PROGRAM CAN BE EXECUTED REPIDLY IN AN EFFICIENT AND PROFESSIONAL MANNER IF ADEQUATE RESOURCES ARE MADE AVAILABLE.

8. AS THE PROGRAM WILL HAVE TO BE EXECUTED IN CLOSE COLLABORATION WITH THE IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE AND WILL REQUIRE CLOSE COORDINATION BETWEEN BANGKOK AND THE

CONSULATES, WE PLAN TO MAKE THE DCM RESPONSIBLE FOR OVERALL SUPERVISION. IN THIS WAY WE BELIEVE PAST CONGRESSIONAL CRITICISMS OF MANAGEMENT OF PAROLE PROGRAMS CAN BE AVOIDED.

9. OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT WILL BE RETAINED IN BANGKOK. SUB-OFFICES WILL BE ORGANIZED WITHIN THE BANGKOK OFFICE FOR BOAT CASES AND IN CHIANG MAI AND UDORN FOR THE LAO CAMP SCREENING AND SELECTION. THE KHMER CAMPS AND THE VIETNAMESE CAMP AT SI KHIU WILL BE HANDLED FROM BANGKOK. WE ARE MAKING PHYSICAL SPACE ADJACENT TO THE CONSULAR SECTION AVAILABLE TO IT FOR THE ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL REQUIRED. UDORN WILL HAVE TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL SPACE SIMILAR TO THE FACILITY RENTED FOR OUR EARLIER PROGRAM.

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10. WE SEE A NEED FOR THE FOLLOWING TDY STAFFING OVER THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF OPERATIONS:

(A) ONE TDY OFFICER, EITHER JUNIOR FSO-3 OR SENIOR FSO-4, WHO WOULD DIRECT THE REFUGEE OFFICE UNDER SUPERVISION OF THE CONSUL. SIX TO TEN ADDITIONAL OFFICERS FOR SIX MONTHS TDY, CONSISTING OF TWO KHMER LANGUAGE QUALIFIED, TWO VIETNAMESE QUALIFIED, WITH THE REMAINDER LAO LANGUAGE QUALIFIED/FSO-FSR.

(B) EIGHTEEN TO 22 VOLAG CASE WORKERS TO BE RECRUITED BY VOLAGS AND ASSIGNED FOR SIX MONTHS TDY. SHOULD CONSIST OF TWO TO THREE VIETNAMESE LANGUAGE QUALIFIED AND ONE TO TWO CAMBODIAN LANGUAGE QUALIFIED AND REMAINDER LAO LANGUAGE QUALIFIED.

(C) THREE FSS SECRETARIES FOR SIX MONTHS TO BE ASSIGNED TO BANGKOK, UDORN AND CHIANG MAI.

(D) THAI EMPLOYEES: 35-40 PERSONS INCLUDING CLERICAL ASSISTANTS, TELEPHONE OPERATORS, DRIVERS, ETC.

(E) REFUGEE EMPLOYEES: 10-15 PERSONS TO BE HIRED FROM AMONG APPROVED PAROLEES AS INTERPRETERS/TRANSLATORS WHO CAN ASSIST WITH IMPORTANT TASK OF CLEARLY DEFINING FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS, ETC.

11. WE PLAN TO USE MISSION DEPENDENTS, FOR PCVS OR OTHER U.S. LOCAL HIRE TO EXTENT POSSIBLE.

12. THESE SUGGESTED STAFFING REQUESTS ARE BASED ON AN ESTIMATE THAT THERE ARE 17,000-20,000 POTENTIAL PRINCIPAL APPLICANTS (PA) TO BE INTERVIEWED FROM AMONG THE APPROXIMATELY 78,000 REFUGEES. BASED ON OUR PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE IN INTERVIEWING REFUGEES, WE BELIEVE THAT WITH THE MANPOWER REQUESTED ABOVE WE CAN COMPLETE THE SCREENING AND SELECTION OF THE 8,000 SPACES RESERVED FOR UP-COUNTRY CAMPS WITHIN FROM TWO TO FOUR MONTHS FROM START OF OPERATIONS. WE PLAN TO COMMENCE INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS WITH THE UNHCR TO COORDINATE OUR RESPECTIVE ROLES IN THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REGISTRATION AND SCREENING OF UP-COUNTRY CAMPS.

13. THE FOREGOING ASSUMPTIONS MAY WELL BE MODIFIED AS THE ROLE OF FEDERAL AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES IN THE UNITED STATES IN THE NEW PROGRAM IS CLARIFIED. FOR EXAMPLE, THE ACTUAL PROCEDURES AND PAPERFLOW BETWEEN THAILAND AND U.S. FEDERAL AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES WILL HAVE A BEARING ON OTHER EMBASSY NEEDS, SUCH AS FOR TDY COMMUNICATORS TO HANDLE INCREASED CABLE TRAFFIC.

14. AS WITH EARLIER PROGRAMS, STAFFING REQUIREMENTS WILL DIMINISH BY AT LEAST 50 PERCENT ONCE THE SELECTION PHASE HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND THE MOVEMENT PHASE COMMENCES.

15. AMBASSADOR WILL BE IN DEPT. THIS WEEK AND WILL BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS OUR PROPOSED APPROACH IN MORE DETAIL.
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Message Attributes

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